

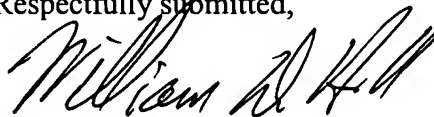
REMARKS

The Applicants request early processing of this application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §371(f). Further, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.496(b), the Applicants have amended the pending claims to correspond to those claims which were indicated to satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) through (4) by the IPEA/US in the IPER issued on September 20, 2005. Therefore, pursuant to rule 1.496(b), the Applicants request that the pending application be taken up out of order.

Summarizing the foregoing amendments, independent claims 1, 20 and 36 have been amended to correspond to the claims considered by the IPEA/US during prosecution of International Application No. PCT/US2004/034120. Additionally, in view of the International Search Report and Written Opinion and the International Preliminary Report on Patentability issued by IPEA/US, the following claims have been cancelled: 2, 7-10, 22, 27-29, 42, 46-80.

Accordingly, entry of the proposed amendment at this time is respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, the Applicants respectfully request a formal Notice of Allowance of Claims 1, 3-6, 11-21, 23-26, 30-41 and 43-45. Should the Examiner care to discuss any aspect of the foregoing in greater detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,



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